

**GREAT DETERMINATION TO BE ALIVE OF JOHN OTTWAY IN JOE
CARNAHAN'S *THE GREY* MOVIE (2012):
A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**



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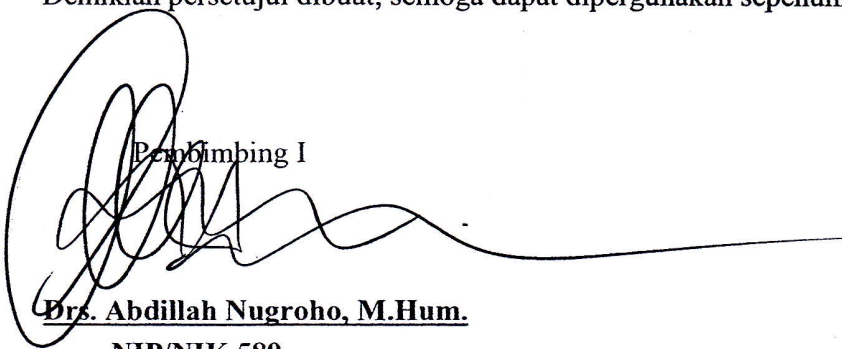
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ABSTRACT

The problem of this study is the great determination to be alive in several dangerous conditions is reflected in Joe Carnahan's The Grey movie. The objective of this study is to analyze the movie based on the structural elements and to analyze the movie based on the psychoanalytic approach. The type of this research is qualitative research. Type of data of the study is text and image taken from two data sources: primary and secondary. The primary data source is The Grey movie directed by Joe Carnahan in 2012. While the secondary data sources are other materials taken from books, author's biography, essay, comments, critics and internet related to the study. Both data are collected by conducting library research and analyzed by descriptive analysis. Based on the analysis, the writer portrays some conclusions. First, based on the structural analysis of each elements, it shows that the character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, theme, mise-en scene, cinematography, sound, casting and editing are supporting each other to produce a good quality movie. Second, based on the psychoanalytic analysis, the study shows that the problem faced by the major character is his own psychology condition to decide the appropriate ways for his life. This movie also shows the process that involves great determination will produce the amazing result.

Keywords: The great determination to be alive, The Grey, Psychoanalytic Approach.

A. Introduction

Background of the Study: Everyone around the world wants to get safe life. Great determination is required to create a comfortable life. Many people in the world can reach the successful life. People can live happily together with their beloved people, because it means that great determination is required to reach great life. Including the struggle to be alive whether in bad or good situation, human are the greatest creature that exist in this world. Thus, every people should have great determination to be alive and ignore anything that hinders them. The great determination to be alive is delineated in this movie by portraying the characters of John Ottway and the other survivors in several dangerous conditions. *The Grey* movie took place in Alaska that has extreme weather and there are many wild wolves in several places, these conditions make the great determination to be alive in this movie is shown perfectly and naturally.

The Grey is a 2012 American thriller film directed by Joe Carnahan who was born on May 9th 1969, he is an American independent film director, screenwriter, producer and actor best known for his films *Blood, Guts, Bullets and Octane*, *Narc*, *Smokin' Aces*, *The A-Team*, and *The Grey*. It is based on the short story *Ghost Walker* by Ian MacKenzie Jeffers, who also co-wrote the screenplay with Carnahan. This movie begins when John Ottway works in Alaska killing the wolves that threaten an oil drilling team. On his last day on the job, Ottway writes a letter to his wife Ana who has left him and he plans to commit suicide. Ottway sets the survivors to task collecting material for a fire. While urinating, Hernandez is killed by a wolf. The remaining survivors find his body in the morning and Ottway suggests they leave the crash site because they are wide open to attack. While hiking across the snow, Flannery falls behind and is killed by three wolves. Ottway finds Burke's frozen lifeless body in the morning. Hendrick jumps to the trees to secure a line as a means of traverse. Talget reluctantly continues across, but

soon finds his injured hand has begun bleeding and he gets caught up in the makeshift rope. While attempting to save Talget, Diaz falls from the tree and injures his knee. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_Carnahan)

The three remaining survivors continue their trek and make it to the river, but an exhausted Diaz can make it no further, preferring to stay and die than go on. Ottway and Hendrick continue, but are soon chased by wolves again. Fleeing, Hendrick falls in the river and he gets his foot stuck between underwater rocks. Ottway jumps into the river to attempt to save him but Hendrick drowns in the river. Freezing and alone, Ottway then curses God and asks for His help with no response. Suddenly, a pack of wolves surrounds him, he recites his father's poem aloud to himself, then charges the alpha wolf before the screen goes black. In a post-credits scene, the back of Ottway's head is seen laying on the side of the presumably dying Alpha wolf's stomach. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Grey_%28film%29)

In this research the writer has four reasons that make this movie interesting, essential, and challenging to be analyzed. The first reason is the movie genre is based on the great determination to be alive from a man who has to face dangerous situation which can treat his life. His struggle to be alive is very fantastic. Second is about the amazing character of this movie, John Ottway has large struggle to defend his life from the unfortunate situation. Third, the visual effect which is used to present this movie seems like the reality. This movie can make the audiences feel the real situation which is experienced by the actor in this movie. The last reason is the storyline of this movie is challenging the writer to analyze deeper about the determination to be alive itself.

Problem Statement of this study is “How is the great determination to be alive reflected in the major character in *The Grey* movie by Joe Carnahan?”. **Limitation of the Study** of this research is to analyze the great determination to be alive of John Ottway as the main character in *The Grey* movie based on Psychoanalytic Approach.

Objective of the Study aims to answer the problem statement, such as following: 1) To analyze the structural elements of the movie and 2) To analyze the great determination to be alive of John Ottway in *The Grey* movie based on Psychoanalytic Approach.

B. Underlying Theory

1. Notion of Psychoanalysis

Psychoanalysis is three things, they are the theory of personality, a method of therapy, and a technique of research (Pervin, 1984:70). Then, Feist (1985:21) states that “the fundamental assumptions of psychoanalysis are that mental life is divided into two levels, the unconscious proper and the conscious. In turn, it has two different levels, the unconscious proper and the preconscious.

Sigmund Freud's Theory is quite complex and although his writings on psychosexual development set the groundwork for how our personalities developed, it was only one of five parts to his overall theory of personality. He also believed that different driving forces develop during these stages which play an important role in how we interact with the world (<http://allpsych.com/psychology101/ego.html>)

2. Structure of Personality

According to Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory of personality, personality is composed of three elements. These three elements of personality are known as the *Id*, the *Ego* and the *Superego*, and work together to create complex human behaviors (<http://psychology.about.com/ir/psychoanalysis/8650/5/>)

a. *Id*

The *Id* has function is to carry the energy, it is because Freud calls *Id* as a pleasure principle. In reaching its purposes, the

Id equipment consists of two processes. These are reflecting action and primary process. Reflect action is inborn and automatic reaction. For examples are healing, cough, blink the eyes, and sneeze. Primary process is the process involving complicated psychological reaction. For example when a person is hungry, he will imagine food to reduce the tension. In reality, his imagination of food cannot reduce the tension of feeling hungry (Hall and Lindzey, 1981 : 36).

b. *Ego*

According to Feist (1985:25) The *Ego* is the region of the mind in contact with reality. It grows out of the *Id* during infancy and through out a person's lifetime, it remains the extension of the *Id*, which has communication with the external world. The *Ego* is governed by the reality principle, which it tries to substitute for the pleasure principle of the *Id*. It is the only one of the three provinces of the mind that has direct contact with reality.

c. *Superego*

Freud (in Hall and Lindzey: 1985: 35) says that *Superego* represents the ideal word rather than pleasure of the real world. It tries to reach perfection rather than pleasure. As Freud explanation, the *Superego* represents societies and is particularly the parents, values and standards, *Superego* as the principle of morality consists of some values and evaluated norms.

C. Research Method

In this research the writer uses *The Grey* movie directed by Joe Carnahan and produced by Liddell Entertainment Studio as the object of this study. The writer tries to analyze the major character's personality of *The Grey* movie namely John Ottway. The type of the study is library research. It has goal to analyze the movie by applying psychoanalytic

approach. Then, the type of the data and data source are divided into two kinds; primary data source and secondary data source. The primary data is the movie itself, *The Grey* movie directed by Joe Carnahan. While the secondary data are taken from other sources like author's biography, essay, comments, critics, internet, etc. Next, the technique of data collection is the library research; the steps in this library research as follows 1) Watching the movie repeatedly. 2) Taking notes of information in both primary and secondary data. 3) Arranging the data into several parts based on its clarification. 4) Analyzing the data. 5) Drawing conclusion based on the analyzing data. Then, there are two technique of the data analysis; the first is clarifying the obtained data by selecting the necessary one. The second step is analyzing the data based on psychoanalytic approach proposed by Sigmund Freud

D. Research Finding and Discussion

1. The Structure of John Ottway's Personality

a. *Id*

Ottway's first *Id* appears when he tries to suicide by pointing his gun into his mouth. He feels desperate because he cannot meet his wife anymore. He wants to die because his wife was dead.

The second *Id* of Ottway is when he is in the plane with Flannery. He tries to reject Flannery's conversation, because he just wants to take a rest. He needs quite situation and do not want to talk anymore. It makes Flannery angry and then move to the other seat.

The third *Id* of Ottway appears when he responds to the Diaz's complaint. Diaz that well known as a braggart complains about their condition in the snow field that treats his life. Ottway wants to shut him up, because Diaz humiliates him badly. Ottway

then gets fighting with Diaz, and it raises the coming of one of the wolves.

b. *Ego*

The first *Ego* of Ottway occurs when he canceled to suicide. His *Id* comes to Ottway and then tries to pressure him to suicide, but his *Superego* says that his life must go on, he should forget his wife. Then finally his *Ego* decides to pull his gun out of his mouth.

The second *Ego* of Ottway occurs when he decides to urge the survivors to go out from the plane, his *Id* asks him to stay in that place because the remaining survivors do not want to move out and just waiting for the rescue comes. But his *Superego* says that there is no one that will find them in that place. So, he urges the survivors to find anything that can be used to make fire, because the temperature is so cold. They need warm in order to keep them still alive.

The third *Ego* of Ottway appears when he asks the survivors to create two hours shift, it tends to guard the other survivors safe when they are sleeping. His *Superego* assumes that if every two hours there is a man who takes the shift, so the condition can be safer for them. However, his *Id* tells him that it will make them have fewer times to take a rest. But finally his *Ego* decides to take the two hours shift firstly.

The fourth *Ego* of Ottway occurs when he suggests the remaining survivors to move out into the trees, whereas the distance between the trees and their place is so far. His *Id* tries to pressure him by asking him to stay in that place because some of the survivors do not want to walk away for long distance. But, his *Superego* says that the survivors have to move out because he assumes that the wolves starts more brave to come into their

place, and the condition become more frightening after Hernandez dead. He thinks that if the survivors can reach the trees, they can safe from the wolves stalk.

The fifth *Ego* of Ottway appears after Diaz cuts off the wolf's neck and then throws it out of the wolves. The Diaz's action makes the wolves become very angry and growling more and more. Although his *Id* says that the survivors need to take a rest after the wolves attack, but his *Superego* says that it will be more dangerous for them, because the wolf leader will attack them with larger number of wolves. Then his *Ego* decides that Ottway leads the survivors to move to the other place and find other safer place.

The sixth *Ego* of Otway appears when he recommends the survivors to cross the cliff by requesting someone of the survivors to jump off the cliff. Although, his *Id* comes and asks him to find other way that safer to reach, but his *Superego* determines that this is the best way that they can do to escape from the wolves stalk. He thinks if the survivors go back and search other ways, it will spend more time and make them more tired. He considers the efficiency that they can get by crossing the cliff. So, his *Ego* decides to order Hendrick to jump of the cliff and make a bridge that they can cross one by one.

The seventh *Ego* of Ottway occurs after Diaz got an incident that makes his knee was broken, Ottway and Hendrick help him stand up and still accompany him. His *Id* says that Diaz can make him slower because his leg cannot walk well. However his *Superego* says that he should help each other because they have passed some accidents together and never leave him with his bad condition. So, his *Ego* decides that Ottway must help Diaz and never leave him alone.

The eighth *Ego* of Ottway appears when Diaz surrenders, he does not want to continue the journey because he feels cannot walk anymore. In this part Ottway's *Id* pressures him too much, so he does not do anything to arouse Diaz's motivation. His *Ego* considers that if Diaz is still with him and Hendrick, it will make them walk slower, on the other hand the wolves still stalk them.

The ninth *Ego* of Ottway appears after Hendrick died, Ottway feels desperate and scared about his life. Afterward, he begs to the God in order to give him some helps in that condition. Although, actually he has little bit faith to the God, but his *Superego* can pressure his *Ego* to ask the God. He wants the God to prove his power, so that he can pass this bad condition. However, the God does not help him directly. He is still given ability to continue the journey and live longer.

The tenth *Ego* of Ottway occurs after Hendrick died, he is alone. He feels the God does not hear his request. Afterward, his *Superego* can influence his *Ego* to ignore the wound and his tired body. He walks through the snow forest lonely, because he just wants to be alive. Unfortunately, at the end of his journey he finds the wolves den and have to fight with the leader of the wolves namely Alpha.

c. *Superego*

The first *Superego* of Ottway occurs when his *Id* pressures the *Ego* to suicide. The *Superego* says that death is not the best way to escape from his problem, because he still has many times to do everything in this world. He should not follow his wife's death, because her death is not his fault. Therefore, in this case the *Superego* can influence the *Ego* to cancel his desire to die.

Then the second *Superego* of Ottway occurs when his *Id* pressures the *Ego* to stay away and do not help a woman who suffers by wolves attack. In the other hand, his *Superego* says that

he should help her. His *Superego* tries to influence the *Ego* to ignore the risk although the wolves will attack him.

The third *Superego* of Ottway appears when he decides to stop the journey. Actually his *Id* tries to pressure the *Ego* by giving assumption that they have to continue the journey because the wolves still stalk them. However, the *Superego* can influence him to decide that the journey should be stopped because Burke's condition becomes more serious. Burke gets hypoxia that makes him needs more time to take a rest.

The fourth *Superego* of Ottway appears when Hendrick falls down to the cold river. His *Superego* says that although the river is extremely cold, but he should jump off the river because Hendrick is the only survivor who still alive.

2. Discussion

Based on the psychoanalytic analysis of the major character of this movie, the researcher concludes that Ottway's his *Id* and *Ego* has similar goal to survive in several bad condition. But in the other hand, his *Superego* also has central role in his decision making. His *Superego* puts some consideration that he should choose for his life. His *Ego* reflects his great determination to be alive by doing everything that he can do. He ignores the wounds, extremely cold weather, or even dangerous situation by wolves stalk. All of those have only one purpose that is to keep him alive. His great determination to be alive has reflected by his efforts to survive when he faces some dangerous conditions. He always believes on his ability that he can survive in that dangerous condition. As the conclusion, the great determination to be alive that is shown by John Ottway as the main character of this movie is very interesting. He passed many dangerous situations by doing anything to make him still alive. Although, during the journey he finds many dangers that treat his life,

he still believes that he can survive and ignores the extremely cold weather that makes his body gets more tired.

E. Conclusion

After analyzing this movie both from structural and psychoanalytic analysis, the researcher takes some conclusions. Overall the aspects of this movie is very good, all of those can work optimally to support this movie succeed. By presenting the setting of place that is supported by good characterization by Liam Neeson as John Ottway, the director can show how great determination to be live should be done to survive within many dangerous conditions in Alaska. The sound that is used in this movie also gives more tension to watch this movie. This movie gives the real condition in Alaska that full of wolves and its extremely cold weather. This movie also offers a new experience about thriller movie that full of frightening action, also the describing of condition in Alaska makes this movie becomes more interesting. All of the aspects of this movie are complemented each other in order to produce good movie that based on the determination to be alive in the extreme place.

Understanding the conflicts between *Id*, *Ego*, and *Superego*, the researcher concludes that the director of this movie wants to presents the great determination to be alive of some survivors within extremely dangerous condition in Alaska. The conflicts that are faced by John Ottway show that there are many difficulties to survive in the Alaska snowfield. John Ottway must face the extremely cold weather in Alaska and the wolves that treat him and the other survivors. However, his *Ego* can make good decisions that makes him can pass many dangerous situations. Although, sometimes his *Id* and *Superego* arguing about his decision. He still faithful on his ability that he can pass many dangerous things in that place. Ottway's character proves that great determination brings something good in the end. The process that involves great

determination will produce the amazing result, as Ottway has done in this movie that he can pass many dangerous things even though he is injured and exhausted after the plane crashed.

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